

2015 Confederate Stamp Alliance Annual Convention**CSA CONVENTION REPORT**

By Richard Murphy

The CSA's 80th anniversary convention was held in northeast London on May 13-16 in the Borough of Islington.

Wow! What a city for an annual meeting. Who didn't spend time to visit the London Eye, Tower of London, Churchill War Cabinet Room, Windsor Castle and the British Museum? The convention was ably hosted by Col. John Walker and spouse Margaret. The task was tremendous and complicated, which resulted in a great convention.

The convention was held at the Business Design Centre, a short walk from the host DoubleTree by Hilton hotel.

The theme of the exhibition was "Philatelic Events that Changed the World," from the "Earliest written letter" in existence to "Mail to the Moon."

The CSA had 18 exhibits (I believe a record) in the CSA double booth on the mezzanine, right next to the Mauritius Post Office Copper Plate exhibit. Each CSA exhibit was highlighted in the Official Exhibition Catalogue.

A media tour of the CSA booth was given by Vice President Deane Briggs, and the booth was heavily visited during the show. The CSA signed up several new members, including our first one from Cyprus.

On Thursday, May 14 the CSA visited the British Library. A private tour was given to the members by the library's curators. The tour comprised the viewing of the Perkins-Bacon printing press, which was used to produce the Penny Black. The public Confederate stamp displays were reviewed followed by a private showing of the Tapling collection and the De La Rue proof die (made for CSA Scott 6).

That evening the Southern Supper was held in the DoubleTree with approximately 40 members, spouses and guests in attendance. A contribution from Col. Schuyler Rumsey was appreciated to help sponsor the dinner.

For the first time in memory, the "the most distance traveled" member was from the United States (California—Col. Schuyler Rumsey). Col. Leonard Hartmann had the lowest CSA member number (1006) in attendance.

The service and exhibit awards were announced and are reported separately in this issue.

The annual membership meeting (reported on pages 40-41) was held on Friday, May 15, followed by four presentations:

1. "The Postmaster Provisionals of the Confederate States" by Gen. Frank Crown Jr.
2. "Civil War Prize Court" by Gen. Patricia Kaufmann;
3. "The De La Rue Stamps of the Confederacy" by Gen. John Kimbrough and
4. "The Bryant-Stephens Correspondence from Florida" by Col. Deane Briggs.

All presentations were well attended by both members and exhibition visitors.

A wine and snack reception followed for CSA members and members of the Royal Philatelic Society, who organized the exhibition.

That evening, the Royal Philatelic Society, London held their President's Dinner, a very formal affair in the historic Guildhall in London's "The City."

CSA attendees were: Gen. Patricia Kaufmann, Col. Leonard Hartmann, Col. and Mrs. Deane Briggs, Col. and Mrs. Tom Lera, Col. and Mrs. John Walker, and Col. and Mrs. Rich Murphy.

After the show, awards were presented and dinner was served in the Livery Hall where the guests were entertained by a young opera star performing songs of the 1800s about, of all things, pigeon mail, the postman and the Penny Stamp Act! The CSA members were seated with the director of the exhibition and his spouse. Bill Hedley informed us that he previously was concerned about the success of the exhibition, but when two years ago John Walker mentioned the CSA would like to attend the event, he knew "the show would be a success."

Hedley introduced José Ramon Moreno, the president of the European Philatelic Associations. Moreno expressed thanks to the CSA for coming and mentioned that the CSA's exhibits contributed to the success of the entire exhibition. More than 15,000 people attended the four days; they were only expecting 10,000.

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On May 16, the CSA visited the headquarters of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Members toured the building and museum, and then reviewed their research library.

While the host was not looking, the editors of the CSA Catalog and Handbook signed the Royal's copy, in addition to Col. Deane Briggs who autographed his Florida Postal History Book. Since the rules say no writing in any reference book, please don't let anyone else know!

The CSA trustees used the meeting room for our trustees' meeting.

I think all of the attendees to our first international convention had a fantastic time. It was fun to see how Gen. John Kimbrough and Gen. Trish Kaufmann enjoyed themselves at a convention where they were not sitting behind a table all day.

Unfortunately, Col. Ian Tickell could not attend due to health reasons. He sent a gift of printed copies of his original Civil War paintings (Shown on page 15). It was greatly appreciated.

Col. Tony Palmer also was ill, but managed to make a brief showing at the exhibition.

Finally it was great spending time with European members, some who had never attended a CSA function.



The London 2015 Europhilex Exhibition Catalogue.

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LONDON



Betty Murphy & phone booth



Tower of London
Trish Kaufmann



Tower Bridge
John Kimbrough



London Eye



Big Ben

2015 Confederate Stamp Alliance Annual Convention**LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX**

Top: The Business Design Centre layout for London 2015 Europhilex.

Center: The CSA booth area.

Bottom: (From left): Tom Lera, John Walker, Schuyler Rumsey and Tony Crumbley at the CSA table.

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SPECIAL VIEWINGS

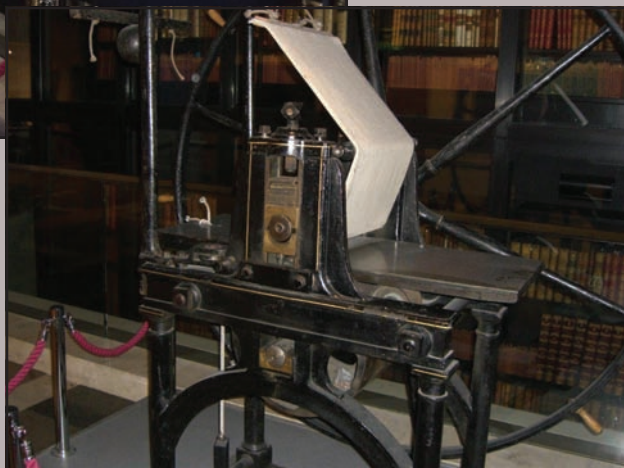


The Perkins-Bacon press at the British Library.

Philatelic Curator Paul Skinner gave CSA members a tour of the library, which included this famous press.



The De La Rue CSA die.



The front door of the Royal Philatelic Society London.



The Sperati press on display.

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RPSL PRESIDENT'S DINNER AT GUILDHALL



Where is the entrance to the Guildhall?



CSA dignitaries Murphy, Briggs, Kaufmann, Walker, and Hartmann at the RPSL dinner.



The crypt underneath the Guildhall.



President Murphy with the Ladies of the Court—Betty, Margaret and Trish.



An opera singer performing at the RPSL dinner.

Overleaf: The CSA table at the Guildhall dinner.

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INFORMAL GATHERINGS



Renea and Tony Crumbley



Margaret and John Walker



Deane and Jonye Briggs



General's Row

From Left: Jerry Palazolo, Tony Crumbley, Trish Kaufmann, Frank Crown, John Kimbrough.



An informal dinner gathering at a local restaurant. Clockwise from left front: Trish Kaufmann, Deane and Jonye Briggs, Renea and Tony Crumbley, Margaret and John Walker, Betty Murphy, Wayne Farley, Rich Murphy and Maurice Bursey.

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CSA AWARDS

SERVICE AWARDS

HAYDN MYER AWARD — Col. Robert (Bob) Rufenacht for his outstanding service in providing the vehicle and search engine for all digitized *Confederate Philatelists* and *Confederate Stamp Albums*, including the development of a members-only section on the CSA website.

CP WRITER'S AWARD — Col. Clifford Alexander for his article, "Detecting S. Allan Taylor Confederate Postmaster Provisional Fakes and Fantasies" in the Third Quarter 2014 *The Confederate Philatelist*.

SPECIAL TRUSTEES' AWARD FOR SUSTAINED AND SUPERIOR SERVICE — Col. Scott R. Trepel for continuous support for the Confederate Stamp Alliance, including the digitization of all back issues of *The Confederate Philatelist*.

SPECIAL TRUSTEES' AWARD FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE — Col. John H. Walker for the monumental effort required to coordinate the participation of the Confederate Stamp Alliance in Europhilex London 2015, the CSA's first convention outside the United States.



Andrew Titley (right) accepts the Special Trustees Award on behalf of Col. Scott Trepel.



Col. John Walker (left) accepts the Special Trustees Award from Col. Deane Briggs.



Gen. Jerry Palazolo (left) receives the Reagan Award from Col. Deane Briggs.



Col. Leonard Hartmann (right) receives the Molesworth Award from Col. Deane Briggs.

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Col. John Walker (left) receives the Kaufmann Award from Col. Deane Briggs.



Col. Wayne Farley (right) receives the Trustee's Research Award from Col. Deane Briggs.



Col. Tom Lera (right) receives the Trustee's Research Award from Col. Deane Briggs.



Gen. Tony Crumbley (left) receives the Siegel Award from Siegel rep Andrew Titley.



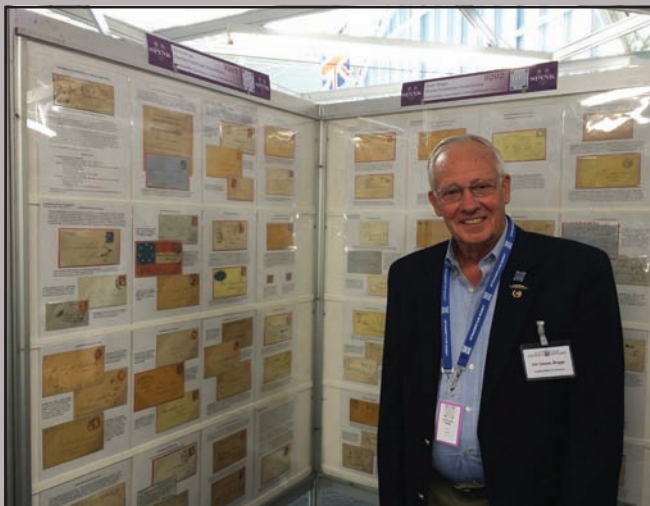
Col. Larry Baum (left) receives the Siegel Award from Siegel rep Andrew Titley.



Col. Michael O'Reilly (right) receives the Siegel Award from Siegel rep Andrew Titley.

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CSA EXHIBITS



Left: Col. Deane R. Briggs with the CSA Trophy for the 'Best and most comprehensive exhibit of Confederate stamps and/or covers' for his international gold medal winning five-frame exhibit, 'Florida Confederate Postal History.' Right: Briggs by his exhibit.



Col. Larry Baum (CSA Ad Covers)



Col. Mike O'Reilly (Huntsville, Ala.)



Gen. Tony Crumbley (N.C. Provisionals)

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Gen. Trish Kaufmann with Col. Randolph Smith's Patriotic Flag Cover exhibit.



Gen. Jerry Palazolo (Tennessee)



Col. John Walker (CSA Patriotic Covers)



Col. Leonard Hartmann (De La Rue)



Col. Wayne Farley (West Virginia)



The judges confer: (From left) Gen. Frank Crown, Gen. Patricia Kaufmann and Col. Schuyler Rumsey at the Rumsey London 2015 booth.

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CSA EXHIBIT PALMARES

The trustees, with sponsor permission, awarded some multiple awards. The judging committee was composed of Gen. Patricia Kaufmann, Gen. Frank Crown, and Col. Schuyler Rumsey.

CSA Trophy

For the best and most comprehensive exhibit of Confederate stamps and/or covers.

"Florida Confederate Postal History"
by Col. Deane Briggs

President's Trophy

For the Best Exhibit of Confederate Stamps and/or Covers by a member who has not previously won any CSA Exhibit Award.

"The Vital Role of Waterways in the Carriage of Confederate Mail" by Col. Steven Roth

CSA Trustees' Research Trophy

Two awards for the best exhibit, single frame, or multiframe, which illustrates new knowledge/understanding of CSA stamps, covers, postal history, or an extension to existing knowledge.

"Independent State & Confederate Mail of West Virginia" by Col. Wayne Farley

"Confederate States Nitre & Mining Bureau"
by Col. Thomas Lera

John H. Reagan

Confederate Postmaster General Award

For the best exhibit containing Confederate Postmaster Provisional stamps and/or envelopes.

"Handling of the Mails at Memphis from 4 March 1861 until 6 June 1862" by Gen. Jerry Palazolo

Generals' Award

Given at the discretion of the judges.

"Building Confederate Unity: The Important Role of Flag Covers" by Col. Randolph Smith

Jack E. Molesworth Memorial Award

For the best exhibit containing off-cover Confederate stamps.

"De La Rue Stamps of the Confederate States of America" by Col. Leonard H. Hartmann



Robert A. Siegel Memorial Award

Three awards given at the discretion of the judges.

"Provisional Issues of North Carolina Confederate Mail, 1861-65"
by Gen. Tony Crumbley

"Advertising Covers in the Confederacy" by Col. Larry Baum

"Huntsville, Alabama Confederate Postal History"
by Col. Michael O'Reilly

William G. Bogg Memorial Award

For the best exhibit depicting the evolution of Confederate postal history.

Arkansas 1861-1865: A Divided Postal System"
by Col. Bruce Roberts

Brian and Maria Green Award

For the best exhibit containing Confederate military postal history.

Tudor Hall Post Office by Col. Ian Tickell

Gen. Conrad L. Bush Award

For the best single-frame exhibit by a member not having another exhibit in the competition.

"Confederate States of America: 2-cent Fees and Markings: Civil War Postal Challenges"
by Col. Clifford Alexander

John W. Kaufmann Memorial Award

For the best exhibit containing Confederate Patriotic covers.

"Patriotic Covers used within and from the Confederate States of America during the Civil War" by Col. John Walker

In addition, the following awards were given to CSA members by London 2015 Europhilex for postal history:

Gold

Col. Deane Briggs, *"Florida Confederate Postal History"*

Vermeil

Col. Thomas Lera, *"Confederate States Nitre and Mining Bureau"*